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ROYTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Sanitary Inspector

for the year

1947




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**To the
Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the
Urban District of Royton.**

Gentlemen,

During the year 1947 there have been several "bright spots" in the public health records.

The first is that the maternal mortality rate for the year is nil, and the second is the fact that the diphtheria death rate for the area is again nil. The district has also been fortunate in its relative immunity to the ravages of poliomyelitis, only two cases, both of which fully recovered, having occurred in the area.

I beg to record my thanks to Mr. Cayton, your Sanitary Inspector, for his generous help during the year.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. B. MACKAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council, 1947-48:

Councillor JOHN SHEPHERD, J.P.

Health Committee, 1947-48.

Councillor W. Dunkerley, Chairman.

Councillor R. Taylor, Vice-Chairman.

Councillor I. Lumb.

Councillor W. E. Critchley.

Councillor W. Butterfield.

Councillor F. Ford.

Councillor C. Livesey.

Councillor H. Perkins, J.P.

Councillor J. Shepherd.

Councillor A. Barker.

Councillor E. Stott.

Councillor B. C. Cook.

Councillor J. Smethurst.

Councillor J. Wright.

Councillor Wm. P. Thompson.

Clerk of the Council:

A. Donald Ogden, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. S. B. MacKay, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

G. Cayton, M.S.I.A.

Clerk:

Miss O. Buckley.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1947.

Table I.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	2,149
Population (Census 1931)	16,689
Registrar—General's estimated resident population, 1947	14,630
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	4,370
End of 1947 according to the Rate books	4,803
Rateable value £82,183.	
Sum represented by a penny rate £330.	

Table II.—Vital Statistics.

Live Births	Total	Males	Females		
Legitimate	319	147	172	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1947	
Illegitimate	7	4	3		22·2
Total	326	151	175		
Stillbirths	9	7	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	26
Deaths	190	92	98	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	12·9
Deaths from Puerperal causes: Nil.					
Total maternal mortality: Nil.					
Death-rate of infants under one year of age:					
All infants per 1,000 births					36
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					34
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....					142
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					37
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)					3

Royton	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Per 1,000 births		
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of deaths under one year
					Live births	Live and Still births	
Mean of 5 years, 1942—1946	17·2	14·4	0·50	2·19	5·15	4·98	52
Year 1946	18·8	12·9	0·27	1·79	3·64	3·57	47
Year 1947	22·2	12·9	0·47	2·52	Nil	Nil	36
Increase or decrease in 1947 on 5 years average 1942-1946	†5·0	-1·5	†0·03	†0·33	-5·15	-4·98	-16
Previous year	†3·4	Nil	†0·20	†0·73	-3·64	-3·57	-11

Table III.—Causes of Deaths during 1947.

	Males.	Females.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	4
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
9. Influenza	1	—
10. Measles	—	—
11. Acute Polio-myel: and Polio-enceph:	—	—
12. Acute inf: enceph:	—	—
13. Cancer of b: cav: and oesoph (m): uterus (f)	4 3	2 3
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	3
15. Cancer of breast	—	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	11	13
17. Diabetes	—	2
18. Intracranial vasc: lesions	6	11
19. Heart disease	32	29
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	3	2
21. Bronchitis	4	5
22. Pneumonia	2	4
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	—
24. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
25. Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	2	1
26. Appendicitis	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	1	3
28. Nephritis	—	3
29. Puer: and post-abortion: sepsis	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—
31. Premature birth	2	—
32. Con: Mal: Birth inj: Infant: dis:	1	3
33. Suicide	1	—
34. Road Traffic accidents	—	—
35. Other violent causes	2	—
36. All other causes	11	12
	92	98
All causes ...	92	98
Total ...		190

Table IV.—Deaths classified in Age Groups.

Under one year	12
1 — 2 years	—
2 — 5 „	1
5 — 15 „	2
15 — 25 „	2
25 — 45 „	15
45 — 65 „	46
65 — 75 „	61
75 years and upwards	51
Total	190

Table V.—Infantile Deaths and Causes.
Under one year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
Malformations, Birth Injury, etc.	1	1	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	4
Diarrhœa .....	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Total ...	2	1	2	1	6	3	2	1	...	12

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council:—

- (1) Tuberculosis—Sanatorium and Hospital accommodation is provided by the County Council.
- (2) Maternity cases are admitted to the Boundary Park General Hospital, Oldham, and Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale.
- (3) Children—Are admitted to the Oldham Royal Infirmary, Manchester Children's Hospital and Norden and Biddulph Homes.
- (4) Fever—Oldham Corporation Hospital, Westhulme.
- (5) Smallpox—The local authority is a constituent member of the Middleton and Chadderton District Joint Hospital Board whose hospital at Racefield, Chadderton, is at present leased to the Lancashire County Council for use as a tuberculosis hospital.

The Lancashire County Council has made arrangements for the treatment of tuberculosis and patients attend the district dispensary at Brook Street, Chadderton. Venereal diseases are treated at the Oldham Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

The Royton District Nursing Association provides two Nurses. This Association is supported by voluntary contributions under a "Home Provident Scheme."

Midwives:—

One midwife employed by the Lancashire County Council practises in the area.

Home and Domestic Helps Scheme:—

The services of two part-time helps have been utilised throughout the year. The number of cases attended has been 20.

The service is available for maternity and certain cases of sickness, on application to the Public Health Department.

LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological work and analysis of water are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, and at the laboratory of the Oldham Joint Pathological Board.

Diphtheria anti-toxin and anti-meningococcus serum is kept at the Town Hall and the Police Station and supplied, in cases of emergency, to Medical Practitioners in this district upon request.

Specimens examined: Diphtheria 2, Fæces 1, Tuberculosis 1.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

List of Adoptive Acts relating to Public Health in force in the district with date of adoption:—

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 (from 1st October, 1891), repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (from 1st October, 1891), repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (from 8th April, 1914).

Part (2) Streets and Buildings, repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

Part (4) Infectious Diseases, repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

Part (6) Recreation Grounds.

The Public Health Act, 1925 (from 1st March, 1926).

Part (2) Streets and Buildings, repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938—Sections 115 and 116 (from 1st April, 1939).

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

During the year there was an apparent rise in the over-all figures of notifiable infectious diseases. This was occasioned by a mild epidemic of measles. There were 201 cases in the district, representing four-fifths of the total number of infectious diseases notified.

Diphtheria records three cases, as against one the previous year, and there were no deaths. Of the three cases, one gives a history of being immunised in 1946.

Immunisation continued to be advocated vigorously, 293 children completing a full course of immunisation under the Authority's Scheme, as compared with 218 in the previous year. 496 children received "safety" doses during the year, as compared with 106 in 1946. It is estimated that at the end of 1947 61% of children under 5 years of age and 67% between the ages of 5 and 14 were artificially protected against diphtheria.

The year was noteworthy throughout the whole country for the outbreak of poliomyelitis, or "Infantile Paralysis." This district had two cases of a mild nature and both patients have fully recovered.

A total of 21 cases were removed to hospital. This includes three cases taken "on suspect."

Table VI below shows the number of cases of infectious disease, classified according to disease and age, occurring among residents during 1947.

Table VI.—Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1947.

Disease	Cases notified													Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital from Home	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District
	Total cases of all ages	Years														
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over			
Diphtheria	3	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	..
Whooping Cough	8	...	...	2	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Measles	201	6	32	25	41	31	61	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	..
Pneumonia	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	..	..
Chicken Pox ...	28	1	1	4	5	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	..
Scarlet Fever...	5	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	..
Poliomyelitis ...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	..
Total ...	250	7	34	33	49	34	84	5	...	2	...	1	1	...	18	...

Table VII.—Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
25—35	5	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
35—45	2	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
45—55	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 & upwards	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Totals	11	2	1	4	3	4	...	...
	13		5		7		...	

Ophthalmia Neonatorum:—

No case was notified during 1947.

Disinfections:—

Thirty-seven visits were made and following recovery or removal to hospital 33 rooms in 19 houses were disinfected with formaldehyde. Ten sets of bedding were steam disinfected at the Oldham County Borough disinfecting station.

Table VIII.—Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947:—

Grouped according to year of immunisation and age on date of immunisation.

Age in years on 31st Dec. of the corres- ponding year.	Years.									Total Inoculated
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	
- 1	49	135	Aged under 5 years on 31/12/47
1 -	...	1	20	59	93	103	132	132	81	
2 -	...	...	31	46	22	14	31	5	21
3 -	2	2	22	50	41	11	2	6	7	
4 -	1	5	18	49	39	7	3	6	5	
5 -	6	13	24	61	34	10	5	4	6	Aged 5-14 years on 31/12/47
6 -	7	17	23	36	31	7	9	6	9	
7 -	12	20	31	24	30	4	6	5	8	
8 -	16	29	38	30	9	4	7	2	1	
9 -	35	7	48	18	6	...	3	1	6	
10 -	23	45	32	31	3	2	6	Aged 5-14 years on 31/12/47
11 -	29	26	44	18	1	...	...	...	2
12 -	26	16	20	19	2	...	...	...	2
13 -	33	15	16	21	3	...	...	...	2
14 -	24	11	18	5	2	...	2	...	2	
15 & over	= 1124
Totals ...	214	207	385	467	316	160	200	218	293	Grand Total 1831

Total under 15 years=

Registrar-General's Estimate of child population, mid 1947:—

Age group 0 — 4 years (inclusive)	1160	
Number of children immunised at any time up to 31/12/47	707	61%
Age group 5 — 14 years (inclusive)	1670	
Number of children immunised at any time up to 31/12/47	1124	67%
Total child population under 15 years of age	2830	
Total number of children immunised.....	1831	65%

Table IX.—Housing.**Statistics for the year 1947.**

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(i)	By the local authority	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
(ii)	By other local authorities	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	.....	.....	.....	.....	14

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	175
	(b)	Number of inspections made for purpose	.....				434
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.....	.....	.....		4
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....				8
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....		4
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....	140

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	129
--	---	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.....	.....			Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—					
	(a) By owners	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	.....				Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 2

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 18

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 18

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 97

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 11

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 9

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 60

**THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1947.**

To the Chairman and Members of the
Royton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report relating to the sanitary circumstances of the area and the progress made during 1947.

I have proceeded with a survey of the sanitary accommodation in the district as a preliminary to improvements being effected as soon as the general position allows.

May I express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials, my thanks for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. CAYTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION 1.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**(1) Water Supply.**

The piped water supply of the Oldham County Borough Council covers the greater part of the district of Royton. This piped supply is subject to chlorination.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

There was no important extension of sewerage during the year.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

Regular inspections were made and cleansing carried out as required.

(4) Sanitary Accommodation.

The following table gives details of the sanitary accommodation in the district at the end of 1947.

Fresh Water Closets	3984	Cesspools	Nil
Waste Water Closets	928	Dustbins	4857
Privy Middens	Nil	Dry Ashpits	7
Pail Closets	42		

(5) Public Cleansing.

Tipping having been completed in Royton Park, similar work is now being carried out at Dogford Road.

Collecting motor vehicles numbered two full-time.

The number of loads collected per week averaged 54, weighing approximately 40 tons 12 cwts., giving a total figure for the year ended December 31st, 1947, of 4,711 tons collected.

A stock of dustbins is kept in the Town's Yard for sale to owners wishing to purchase. These facilities proved very useful on account of the short supply of bins generally.

(6) Sanitary Inspections during 1947 (including Housing).

During the course of the year the following nuisances or defects which were reported upon month by month to the Health Committee were dealt with. Out of a total of 581 nuisances listed in the Inspector's Journal, 570 were remedied in a satisfactory manner within the year.

They may be summarised as follows:—

Blocked drains	76
Defective drains	2
Drains re-laid (97 ft.)	12
W.W.C. stoppages	35
W.W.C.'s converted to fresh water W.C.'s	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	2
Defective W.C.'s	21
Defective W.W.C.'s	9
Defective ash receptacles	259
Downspouts defective	15
Defective gutters	16
Defective water service pipes	8
Other housing defects	102
Dirty houses.....	2
Accumulations	3
Insufficient water supply	7
Miscellaneous	1
Total	570

To secure the remedy of these defects, 251 informal notices and 8 statutory notices were served upon owners or agents in addition to numerous interviews.

(7) Shops and Offices.

No action was taken during 1947 to enforce the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops, etc., and to sanitary conveniences.

Likewise, no action under the Public Health Act, 1936, was taken relating to conditions in offices, ie., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.

(8) Camping Sites (other than Military).

No sites were used for this purpose for any extended period, making the issue of licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, unnecessary.

(9) Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken during the year.

(10) Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths in the centre of the district continued to be well patronised. The filtered and chlorinated water was tested at frequent intervals for the determination of residual chlorine.

(11) Eradication of Vermin.

Advice was given to tenants. During the year 12 verminous premises were disinfested at the owners' expense.

(12) Rodent Control.

A survey of the district was completed and infestations were dealt with at 13 premises during the year.

123 visits were made.

A maintenance treatment of the sewers in the district involving the baiting and poisoning of 236 man-holes was carried out under the Infestation Order, 1943, and good results were obtained. A further treatment is proceeding.

(13) Schools.

These were visited and reports on matters relating to insanitary conditions were passed to the appropriate authority for attention.

(14) Offensive Trades.

None of these specified trades exist in the area.

(15) Factories Act, 1937.**(a) Factories (including factory bakehouses).**

At the end of the year the number of factories in the district was 118. Of this number 90 were factories with mechanical power, and 28 were factories without mechanical power.

Twenty-eight inspections were made.

Two defects relating to sanitary conveniences were found and one remedied during the year.

(b) Bakehouse provisions.

At the end of the year the bakehouses in the district numbered 38. Of this number 26 were entered in the register under factory bakehouses. 33 visits were made. They were

generally well kept and complied with special provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, secs. 156 and 157, relating to bakehouses which are incorporated in the Factories Act, 1937.

One basement bakehouse in use in the district is subject to license by the Urban District Council and to review each successive fifth year.

(16) Common Lodging-Houses.

Only one common lodging-house is registered and this received regular visits.

(17) Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.

No action was necessary during the year.

(18) Health Committee Meetings.

All eleven meetings were attended.

SECTION 2.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.**(1) Milk Supply.**

Forty-one inspections were made under the Milk and Dairies Regulations at the 21 dairy farms, where approximately 330 cows are housed, and one dairy.

There are 114 milk purveyors, including local cow-keepers in the area.

Tuberculosis Milk—

Number of samples submitted for biological test 10.
Results—Negative 9, Positive 1.

The positive result was reported to the Lancashire County Council for further investigation and action.

Bacteriological Examinations—

Number of samples 27.
Results—Satisfactory 18, Unsatisfactory 9.

The nine samples classed “unsatisfactory” failed to pass the examination for coliform bacilli and the Methylene Blue Reduction Test for keeping quality.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Supplementary Licenses granted.

Tuberculin tested	Nil
Accredited	Nil
Pasteurised	2

(2) Meat and Other Foods.

During the year 48 visits were made to butchers' shops and other food premises.

Ten slaughterhouses were licensed, but the slaughtering of animals for consumption in Royton continued to be controlled and executed at Oldham. Slaughtering in local slaughterhouses ceased on 14th January, 1940.

A total weight of 5 cwts. 1 qr. 2 lbs. of meat and other foodstuffs were condemned during the year.

No legal proceedings were taken.

No case of food poisoning was notified.

(3) Ice Cream.

Five premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream and are kept under supervision.

(4) Adulteration, etc.

The County Sanitary Officer reported that 34 samples of milk and 11 samples of other foodstuffs were taken in this area during the year. In addition, one "Appeal-to-Cow" sample was taken. All of them proved satisfactory, with the exception of 2 milk samples which were certified to contain extraneous water. In both these cases the vendor was prosecuted by the Lancashire County Council and fined on conviction.

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by Officers of the Lancashire County Council with my co-operation and assistance.

